


Item No. 11.1.6
Halifax Regional Council
September 20, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original signed by 

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by _____
Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Operations

DATE: August 26, 2011

SUBJECT: **Fall River Community Planning Process – Committee Membership
Under the Public Participation Program**

ORIGIN

Motion of Regional Council on September 30, 2008:

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Snow, that Halifax Regional Council (b) approve the Public Participation Program for the Fall River MPS Amendment Process as presented in Attachment C of the report dated September 16, 2008.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council amend the Public Participation Program Resolution for the Fall River Community Planning Process regarding the composition of the Vision Implementation Committee/Community Planning Group, as per Attachment A of this report.

BACKGROUND

Following Regional Council's approval-in-principle of the Fall River Community Vision and Action Plan, a community Vision Implementation Committee (VIC) was formed, with its mandate being to oversee the implementation of the Vision and Action Plan. Originally comprising 28 members, the organizational structure included the establishment of five Task Groups and a Coordinating Committee.

One of the important components of the Community Vision was to undertake a Secondary Planning Process for the Fall River Village Centre. A Public Participation Program Resolution was approved by Regional Council in September, 2008, and included the establishment of a Vision Implementation Committee/Community Planning Group (VIC/CPG). This VIC/CPG was formed as a sub-group of the overall VIC, in order to achieve a reasonably sized working committee. Its membership, as prescribed in the public participation program, comprised the Chairs of the five VIC Task Groups, the remaining members of the VIC Coordinating Committee, and the Councillor for District 2 (see Attachment B). In all, there were twelve initial members on the VIC/CPG when the planning process commenced. The mandate of this Committee is to:

- a) to provide direction to staff during the course of preparing the Community Design Study and drafting plan policies;
- b) ensure that members of the public have opportunity to participate and express their opinion;
- c) confer with the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council, committees of Council and other groups and organizations; and
- d) make recommendations to Council regarding any policy and regulatory amendments prepared by staff.

After its first few meetings, the VIC/CPG started having workshops to develop a range of design alternatives upon which to model future design regulations. These workshops took place throughout the Winter and Spring of 2009 and all members of the larger VIC and the general public were welcome to attend to give insight into how to carry out the vision of retaining rural character of the Fall River Centre. These workshops culminated with the development of a range of alternative development models to present to the public at a series of Open Houses and Design Workshops (Design Charrette) in the Spring of 2009.

However, during the period following the Community Design Charrette, the composition of the VIC and VIC/CPG began to evolve. Three of the five Task Groups did not meet on a regular basis and the VIC Coordinating Committee ceased to function. The membership on the VIC declined from 28 to 15 and the work of the VIC became focussed on the development of the Secondary Planning Strategy for the Fall River Village Centre. At this point, *all* remaining VIC

members were in regular attendance at all VIC/CPG meetings to give input in the development of the Secondary Plan. There was always a quorum (minimum five) of original VIC/CPG members and the vast majority of the decisions were made by consensus so there was little need to distinguish between original and 'new' members.

The VIC/CPG presented a draft Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to the community for review on March 31 and April 2, 2011. The meetings were well advertised and well attended. During these events, several landowners came forward with specific requests for policy accommodation. In light of the wide ranging impact that these proposed developments could have on the Plan Area, the VIC/CPG held a series of public information meetings to receive public feedback. The Committee is now deliberating how the draft planning documents should be adjusted before it recommends a draft Secondary Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to Council for consideration.

DISCUSSION

Given how the original VIC and VIC/CPG memberships have evolved over time, staff recommend that Council endorse the membership of the VIC/CPG as including all remaining members of the VIC. The only reason why the original VIC/CPG structure was formed was to limit the number of members to a reasonable size working group, since the VIC was very large when the community planning process started. However, since that time, a significant number of the original VIC volunteers have relinquished their membership and several of the task Groups are no longer active. The fifteen remaining members have worked tirelessly to engage the community in the formation of the draft. They have conducted major public events at key points in the process and all members have attended the vast majority of the VIC/CPG meetings to prepare a draft plan. They have also carried out an inclusive public engagement process and have held numerous meetings to hear special requests from landowners and members of the public who wanted to have input into the process. The VIC/CPG is now near the end of the process and should be in a position soon to recommend a proposed Secondary Planning Strategy to Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council and Regional Council for consideration.

By amending the Public Participation Program Resolution to endorse the composition of the VIC/CPG, Council reaffirms the Committee's mandate, structure and process for the successful completion of the project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications arising from this recommendation.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could decide not to adopt the revised Public Participation Resolution. This is not recommended as it could create future uncertainty regarding the evolution of the VIC/CPG membership.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: (Revised) Public Participation Program Resolution
- Attachment B: (Original) Public Participation Program Resolution Fall River Centre MPS Amendment Process
- Attachment C: Comparison of Initial and Current VIC/CPG Membership

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Maureen Ryan, Senior Planner, 490-4799

Report Approved by: Original Signed
Austin French, Manager, Planning Services, 490-6717

Attachment A

(REVISED) Public Participation Program for the Fall River Village Centre MPS Amendment Process

1. The Fall River Vision Implementation Committee/Community Planning Group (The Committee) is formed to guide the formation of proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Use By-law for Planning Districts 14 and 17, Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, Halifax Regional Subdivision By-law, and any guidelines (planning documents) to carry out the Fall River Vision and Action Plan for the Fall River Community Centre.
2. The Committee will comprise all members of the Fall River Vision Implementation Committee and the Councillor for Polling District 2 as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
3. The mandate of the Committee is to:
 - a. To provide input to staff during the course of preparing the Community Design Study and when drafting plan policies are prepared for review;
 - b. Ensure that property owners and interested parties have adequate opportunities to participate and express their opinion;
 - c. Attend all public meetings and workshops;
 - d. Make recommendations to the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council and Regional Council regarding any policy and regulatory amendments proposed for the Fall River Centre;
 - e. Confer with the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board and Regional Planning Advisory Committee.
4. The Committee may host any number of workshops, open houses or public meetings it deems necessary to facilitate public input into the formation of the plan.
5. The Committee will bring forward a recommended set of policies and regulations to the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council and Regional Council for review and approval.
6. The Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council will review the planning documents recommended by the Committee and either provide feedback to the Committee for suggested revision or recommend the planning documents to Regional Council for public hearing.
7. Regional Council is the approving body of the planning documents pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act.
8. All meetings shall be open to the public.

Attachment B

(ORIGINAL) Public Participation Program Resolution

Fall River Centre MPS Amendment Process

1. The Fall River Vision Implementation Committee/Community Planning Group (The Committee) is formed to guide the formation of proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Use By-law for Planning Districts 14 and 17, Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, Halifax Regional Subdivision By-law, and any guidelines (planning documents) to carry out the Fall River Vision and Action Plan for the Fall River Community Centre.
2. The Committee will comprise members of the:
 - Chair of the Community Development Task Group (1 member);
 - Chair of the Economic Development Task Group (1 member);
 - Chair of the Housing Task Group (1 member);
 - Chair of the Transportation Task Group (1 member);
 - Chair of the Open Space Task Group (1 member);
 - Remaining members of the Coordinating Committee of the Vision Implementation Committee; and
 - Councillor for Polling District 2 as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
3. The mandate of the Committee is to:
 - a. To provide direction to staff during the course of preparing the Community Design Study and when drafting plan policies are prepared for review;
 - b. Ensure that property owners and interested parties have adequate opportunities to participate and express their opinion;
 - c. Attend all public meetings and workshops;
 - d. Make recommendations to the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council and Regional Council regarding any policy and regulatory amendments proposed for the Fall River Centre;
 - e. Confer with the Halifax Watershed Advisory Board and Regional Planning Advisory Committee.
4. The Committee may host any number of workshops, open houses or public meetings it deems necessary to facilitate public input into the formation of the plan.

5. The Committee will bring forward a recommended set of policies and regulations to the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council and Regional Council for review and approval.
6. The Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council will review the planning documents recommended by the Committee and either provide feedback to the Committee for suggested revision or recommend the planning documents to Regional Council for public hearing.
7. Regional Council is the approving body of the planning documents pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Government Act.
8. All meetings shall be open to the public.

Attachment C

Comparison of Initial and Current CPG Membership

Original VIC/CPG Membership	Current VIC/CPG Membership
Michael Creighton	Michael Creighton
Bill Munden	Bill Munden
Owen Evans	Owen Evans
Sandra Carr	Sandra Carr
Bob Guscott	Bob Guscott
Jim Simon	Jim Simon
Joy Gouge	Joy Gouge
Andrew Jones	Val Williams
Alana Mattie	Al MacKenzie
Robin Stewart	Gary Dease
Rick Cruse	Paul Burris
District 2 Councillor	Jacqueline Stuedler
	Keith Manchester
	Anna MacCarron
	District 2 Councillor